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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8247

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0747

FOR ARA, USOAS, A/SY/CC/TAG, A/SY/OPS/FO/ARA, M/CT

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/2/88 (SKOL, M) OR-P

TAGS: OVIP (MIDDENDORF, WILLIAM, OREP (CARBAUGH, JOHN)(MANION, CHRISTOPHER), PORO, PINT, ASEC, PTER, CS

SUBJECT: (LOU) US VISITORS TO COSTA RICAN ELECTIONS

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 0707 (LIMDIS), (B) SAN JOSE 735  
AND PREVIOUS

1. (LOU) FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SENATE STAFFERS CHRISTOPHER MANION AND JOHN CARBAUGH HAVE BEEN ADDED TO LIST OF WASHINGTON VISITORS DURING THE 7 FEBRUARY COSTA RICAN ELECTIONS. PLEASE CONFIRM, PROVIDE DETAILS SOONEST.

2. (LOU) MINISTRY ALSO REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR AND MRS. MIDDENDORF ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN SAN JOSE AT 2110 FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY VIA LACSA FLIGHT FROM MIAMI. PLEASE CONFIRM.

3. (LOU) EMBASSY OF COURSE WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF MESSRS.

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CARBAUGH AND MANION. DCM ADAMS INVITS THEM TO STAY AT HIS RESIDENCE DURING THEIR STAY. CONTROL OFFICER WILL BE AID OFFICER LARRY LAIRD (OFFICE DIRECT LINE: 22-77-84; HOME: 28-29-38). (PLEASE NOTE THAT, EXCEPT FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS, THE SCHEDULES FOR AMBASSADOR MIDDENDORF, MR. KIMBERLIN, AND MESSRS. CARBAUGH AND MANION WILL BE DIFFERENT, HENCE THE NEED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONTROL OFFICERS).

4. (C) SECURITY. THE ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING LAST FRIDAY BY A GROUP TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS FROM THE SALVADORAN AND COSTA RICAN LEFT (REF B), HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY INDICATIONS OF A WIDER OPERATION WHICH MAY BE SMARTING FROM ITS LOSSES. THIS NEW INFORMATION FURTHER RAISES THE LEVEL OF THE SECURITY PROBLEM FOR THIS PERIOD. WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF A TERRORIST SPECTACULAR GENERATED BY SOME FAR LEFTIST GROUP AIMED, INTER ALIA, AT MARRING THE ELECTION PROCESS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, VISITING U.S. OFFICIALS COULD BECOME TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY. WE NOW THINK THAT DIPLOMATIC NICETIES OF THE OAS MUST BE PUT ASIDE AND AMBASSADOR AND MRS. MIDDENDORF MUST STAY AT THE RESIDENCE. MESSRS. CARBAUGH AND MANION SHOULD STAY AT THE DCM'S RESIDENCE AND MR. KIMBERLING WILL BE AT THE HOME OF POL COUNSELOR. IN COOPERATION WITH THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL AND PUBLIC FORCES WE WILL PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY SECURITY COVERAGE. WE RECOMMEND THAT PRE-VISIT PUBLICITY BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

5. PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANCE OF THIS SOONEST TO MESSRS. CARBAUGH AND MANION AND CONFIRM THEIR TRAVEL PLANS SO THAT WE CAN MEET AND COVER THEM THROUGHOUT VISIT. REQUEST REPLY ASAP.  
MCNEIL

END OF MESSAGE

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